CHAPTER NO. 747

SENATE BILL NO. 3240

By Burchett, Bowers, Finney

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2970

By Cooper, Marrero, Larry Turner, John Deberry, Ulysses Jones, Henri Brooks, Kernell, Lois DeBerry, Towns

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 1 and Title 71, Chapter 3, relative to child care.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-1-130, is amended by adding the following as new subsections:

- (f) In any case where the department terminates a certificate for an eligible child for child care services with a child care provider, the department shall promptly, but in any event within forty-eight (48) hours, inform the provider that the child's certificate is or will no longer be in effect.
 - (g)(1) A parent or other caretaker of an eligible child who receives a subsidy certificate from the Department of Human Services shall be solely responsible for payment to the provider of child care services any required co-payments or other payments required pursuant to any contractual agreement with such provider of child care services.
 - (2) Unless extenuating circumstances or other good cause applies as determined by the department, upon removal of a child from a provider of child care services, no subsidy certificate shall be issued or any payments made by the department on behalf of the child to any subsequent provider of child care services unless such parent or other caretaker of the eligible child has made all required co-payments to, or has reached an agreement regarding outstanding co-payments with, the previous provider of child care services.
 - (3) For purposes of this subsection "co-payment" means the departmentimposed fee required to be paid by the parent or caretaker on behalf of the eligible child to the provider of child care services as a condition for the receipt of a subsidy certificate.
 - (4) Nothing herein shall be construed to require the department to resolve or mediate any dispute between the parent or caretaker of any eligible child and the provider of child care services relative to outstanding co-payments.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 10, 2006

JOHN S. WILDER

JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER

APPROVED this 23rd day of May 2006

PHIL BREDESEN GOVERNOR